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Sanitized - Approved For Release : CIA-RDP64-00391R000100190004-6

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Chief, Geographic Research

DATE: 4 February 1958

FROM : Chief, Cartography Division

SUBJECT: Proposed transfer of D/GL to OCR

1. The recommendation of the Panel of Library Consultants that consideration be given to transferring the Map Library to OCR in order to provide a better central reference service in the Agency deserves careful evaluation lest its implementation create new problems. Centralized reference service is basically an efficient goal of management but it does not necessarily imply centralized administration. A modern shopping center is the ultimate in centralized services but the administrative control of each service remains intact.

2. Improved central reference service can be provided by assigning space for the map reference service in conjunction with other central services most of which are currently in OCR. By this simple method the intent of the proposed recommendation can be accomplished and the benefit thereof derived.

3. To transfer D/GL from the ORR Geographic Area to OCR in order to bring about centralized reference service is not desirable. The administration of D/GL should remain in ORR where it has proved to be efficient and effective for more than a decade. The Map Library Division with others in the Geographic Area form the single most concentrated effort in geography in the U. S. Government. By its very nature geographic intelligence in its broadest sense consists of separate but closely related activities. Each complements the others closely and can not exist alone except in a much reduced fashion. Central control of the geographic intelligence function in the Agency has been proved most effective; to weaken this "area of common concern" can not be recommended.

4. The responsibility of cartographic production in the Agency rests in D/GC. The Map Library must remain closely tied to the Cartography Division in order to assure effective "control" over source requirements in map form and to provide the Cartography Division with a controlled outlet for all map production. To assure continuity of the Geographic Area, I strongly urge counter-arguments to the proposed transfer of D/GL to OCR.

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